

Agenda Item 5

MEMORANDUM

TO: Historic Preservation Commission
FROM: John Southard, Historic Preservation Officer
DATE: September 13th, 2021
SUBJECT: Agenda Item 5 – Historic Preservation Plan update



The City engaged Archaeological Consulting Services, Ltd. (ACS) for the “Preparation of a Historic Property Survey and Inventory and a Historic Preservation Plan” in 2019. Despite COVID-19-related delays caused by restricted access to relevant archives and limited opportunities for Tribal consultation meetings and public meetings, among other challenges, it is anticipated that the deliverables will be complete or substantially complete by the end of 2021. The project scope includes three tasks, those being:

Task 1: Urban Core Pre-1961 Inventory

An inventory of pre-1961 commercial, industrial, and multi-family housing properties be inventoried within the Urban Core that pre-date 1961 (the beginning date of inventory for the original RFQ). All properties pre-dating 1961 located within the Urban Core, with the exception of single-family residential and Arizona State University (ASU) properties, will be inventoried and assessed for National Register of Historic Places (National Register) eligibility. This inventory will include previously evaluated properties to ensure that their eligibility has not changed since the original documentation. All properties will be coded by property type and eligibility using GIS.

Task 2: Inventory and Research for 1961 – 1975 Properties

ACS will conduct a survey and inventory of individual properties (buildings, structures, and objects) and potential residential districts constructed between 1961 and 1975. The survey and inventory will locate representative styles within residential neighborhoods. This method allows us to capture the architectural styles, identify significance of those neighborhoods, and assess general integrity. Detailed information regarding character-defining features, circulation patterns, and number of contributors / noncontributors will not be collected for this study. Documentation of properties recommended eligible will be consistent with that prepared for the Historic Eligible classification used by the City; Historic Property Inventory Forms and Update Forms will not be required, although details regarding significance, integrity, and National Register eligibility will be provided. Properties recommended not eligible will be presented in a table with justification for the recommendation. All properties will be coded by property type and eligibility using GIS.

Task 3: Historic Preservation Plan Update

Based on previous experience and using other plans prepared for Salt River Valley cities as a guide, ACS anticipates the City’s historic preservation plan will include the following sections:

1. Regulatory Contexts
2. Summary of Prehistoric and Historic Contexts and Tempe Resources
3. Tribal Perspective
4. Preservation Program
5. Planning Considerations

Regulatory contexts will include discussion of federal, state, and municipal laws that apply to projects conducted within City limits, as well as the responsibilities of the City as a Certified Local Government (CLG). A summary of

prehistoric and historic contexts will be presented. These will be brief but include examples of relevant historic property types in Tempe, as well as important aspects of integrity and significance for each property type. An annotated bibliography will be prepared to provide readers with references for large historic property studies and summaries. A tribal perspectives component will be prepared and included in the plan (please see detailed scope below). A discussion will follow regarding the current historic preservation program in Tempe. This section will include reference to the HPO and City process documents, as well as National Register designations, the local property register, Historic Eligible properties, applications and internal City processes, and the role of the HPC. Finally, planning considerations will be presented. This section will include historic preservation considerations with reference to historic preservation elements from the 2040 Plan, Urban Core Master Plan components, and recent Character Area development. This section of the plan will also provide goals and priorities, as identified by staff, consulting agencies, stakeholders, and the public regarding historic preservation in Tempe and how those will fit into the City's short-term and long-range planning. Finally, the plan will include recommendations to help formalize these priorities into the City's planning process. These recommendations will be prepared in consultation with the City Historic Preservation Officer and Project Manager. Plan preparation will include extensive Tribal and public outreach.

Staff previously provided the Historic Preservation Commission an update relating to progress made to date, next steps, and Historic Preservation Commission participation in plan development at the January 13th, 2021, February 10th, 2021, March 10th, 2021, and August 11th, 2021 Historic Preservation Commission meetings. Staff will continue the ongoing discussion relating to Historic Preservation Office priorities and solicit Historic Preservation Commission input at the September 13th, 2021 meeting.